In addition, the Government has also appointed Expert Committees to make an in-depth study of the closed tea gardens in the States of West Bengal, Kerala, Assam and Tripura and suggest a package of measures for their viability and revival. The reports of these Committees are expected to be submitted by March 2003.

United Nations Trade and Development Report

484. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Trade and Development Report has pointed out that only India and China to weather the reversal in the global economy in the Asian region;

(b) if so, the other main points mentioned in the report;

(c) whether according to the report, the growth in the world economy slowed sharply in 2001;

(d) if so, whether Government have examined this report; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Trade and Development Report 2002 of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development has stated that growth in world economy slowed sharply in 2001; performance was weak in all three leading economic regions in the developed world; several emerging market economies in East Asia and Latin America entered into recession; only China and India, two large and relatively closed economies were by and large immune from the downward pressure of world markets. The slow down of global growth during 2001 was accompanied by an even more marked deceleration of growth in international trade; in Asia, the fall in demand by United States led to stagnation in export growth, a rapid deterioration in current account positions and a declining growth rate in 2001 in all countries except India and China.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. This report is examined by the concerned departments in the Government. In fact, during April-December 2002 the export growth of Indian merchandise goods has picked up substantially at 20.36% as compared

to the corresponding period of the previous year. This is higher than the export target of 12% fixed for the current financial year.

However, export Promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government various initiatives have been launched to enhance the export growth which include introduction of new schemes like Assistance to State for Infrastructure Development for Export (ASIDE), establishing Agri Economic Zones, Market Access Initiative, strengthening and adding new features to the Special Economic Zones, 'Focus Africa' Programme, etc.

Export of Basmati Rice to US

485. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to discriminatory yardsticks of the US administration export of Basmati Rice to US has reduced significantly during the period from April to October, 2002 as compared to the corresponding period of 2001;

(b) whether it is a fact that preference is being given to the import from Pakistan; and

(c) if so, the details in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The total quantity and value of export of basmati rice to USA during the period April-October and April-November, 2002 over the corresponding period last year is as under:-

Period	Qty. (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)
April-October, 2002 (Prov.)	18285	67.39
April-October, 2001 (Prov.)	19709	66.43
April-November, 2002 (Prov.)	22283	74.61
April-November, 2001 (Prov.)	20511	69.41

(SOURCE: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

The above data shows that the decrease during April-October 2002 is nominal only in quantitative terms whereas in value terms export of Basmati Rice to US has shown marginal increase as compared to